WOODSY OWL ON FISHING

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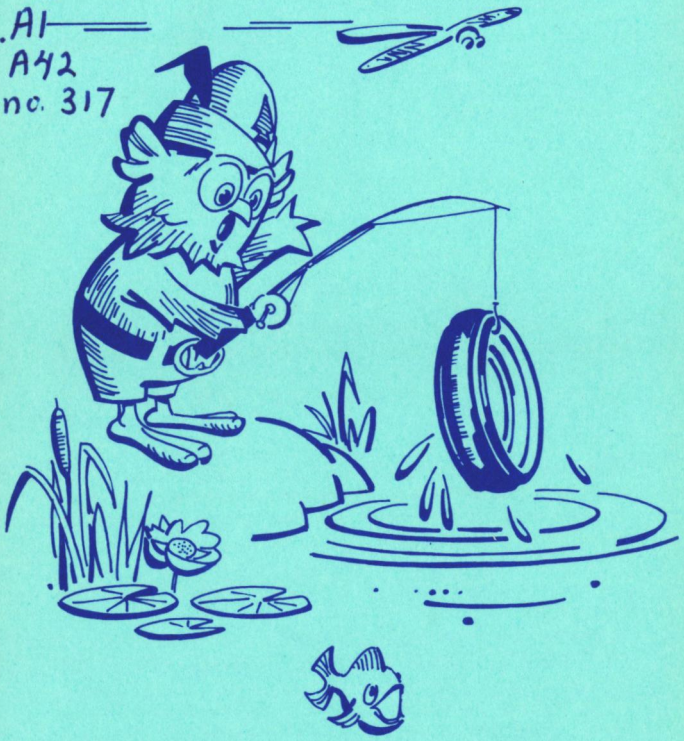


FOREST SERVICE • U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FS-317

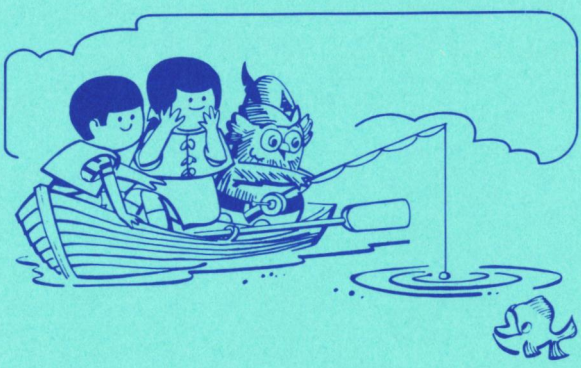
WOODSY OWL ON FISHING

BEFORE YOU SET OFF

. . . for the nearest fishing hole: Take time to study local regulations. Know the size and creel limits. Also, know what kinds of fish are in season and what kinds are out. Find out who owns the land. If you will be crossing or fishing on private land, get permission from the landowner first. Don't forget your fishing license!

PLAY IT SAFE

When baiting hooks, keep a firm grip on the bait. The movements of slippery worms or minnows can cause serious hook injuries. Handle lures having clusters of double or treble hooks with special care. When landing a fish, ease it out of the water into a net or onto the bank. Jerking a fish out of the water can result in wildly flying hooks, especially if the fish comes loose.



ON THE BANK OR SHORE

Stay with your rod or pole. Protect curious children and animals from painful injuries by returning loose hooks and lures to your tackle box. Watch your backcasting clearance: avoid trees, bushes, and especially people. Help prevent erosion: protect grass and shrubs near the water's edge. If you dig worms, go back away from the water to do so. Be sure to level the soil and replace the sod afterward.

WADING IN LAKES OR STREAMS

. . . requires special care. Watch your footing. Look out for dropoffs, deep holes, slippery rocks, soft mud, and quicksand. Always test the footing ahead and keep most of your weight on the foot already on safe ground. Avoid wading through bank fishermen's lines.

OUT ON THE LAKE OR RIVER

Wear an approved life jacket. Watch for storm warnings. Don't overload your craft. Small boats and canoes capsize easily. Stay seated when in one. Maintain a safe and courteous distance from other fishermen. If your line becomes tangled with somebody else's, stop and untangle it. This will save both tackle and tempers.

KEEP WATER CLEAN

Clean water is the best fishing water. Keep soaps, detergents, garbage, and other waste out of lakes and streams. Use toilets where provided. Otherwise, dispose of human waste in accordance with local regulations. Unused bait should be disposed of away from the water.

PACK IT IN—PACK IT OUT!

Wads of fishing line, hooks, drink cans and bottles, plastic boxes, paper bags, and other items degrade the water and the shore. Pack out what you bring in and, whenever you can, pick up and pack out trash that less thoughtful persons have left behind.

JUST IN CASE

Be prepared for the unexpected. Bring raincoat or poncho, sunglasses and sunburn lotion, first aid kit, compass, extra hooks, lures, leaders, and other necessities.

HELP MAKE FISHING

. . . more enjoyable for all. Work with your local sportsmen's club, planning board, and conservation department for better sportsmanship, better fishing, and better fish habitat. Take no more fish than you can use. Release all undersize fish. Be a pal—teach a kid how to fish.

GIVE A HOOT! DON'T POLLUTE!

Recycle these guidelines—give them to a friend.

AND GOOD LUCK!

March 1978